

**THE ECONOMIC  
ALLIANCE FOR  
MICHIGAN**

41650 Gardenbrook  
Road Suite 175  
Novi, MI 48375-1230  
(248) 596-1006  
www.eamonline.org  
Twitter: @EAMOnline

**OFFICERS**

Co-Chairs

**Cindy Estrada**  
Vice President  
International Union, UAW

**Sharon Miller**  
President  
ITH Staffing

**Bernie Swartout**  
Dir. Compensation & Benefits  
Ford Motor Company

**Ron Bieber**  
President  
Michigan State AFL-CIO

Vice-Chairs

**Patrick Devlin**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Michigan Building Trades  
Council

**William Clay Ford, Jr.**  
Executive Chairman  
Ford Motor Company

**Gary Casteel**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
International Union, UAW

**Gary B. Kushner**  
President  
Kushner & Company

**Sergio Marchionne**  
CEO  
Fiat Chrysler Automotive

**Daryl Newman**  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Michigan State AFL-CIO

**Greg Nowak**  
President  
Michigan Teamsters Joint  
Council 43

**James Glynn**  
Vice President  
Labor Relations  
General Motors

**Dennis E. Williams**  
President  
International Union, UAW

Secretary

**Mike Stone**  
Michigan Community Action  
Program Director  
International Union, UAW

Treasurer

**Gary B. Kushner**  
President  
Kushner & Company

Staff Officers

**Bret Jackson**  
President

**Dennis McCafferty**  
Vice President



May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Senate Committee on Michigan Competitiveness,

The Economic Alliance for Michigan (EAM) focuses on improving the reality and image of Michigan as a place to do business and be employed. The EAM and our members support Senate Bills 987, 988, 989 and 990.

Healthcare purchasers have faced dramatic increases in their healthcare costs over the last few years. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Employer-Sponsored Insurance Premiums have increased over 180% since 2000. The EAM believes this increase is slowing the growth of companies, reducing investments, and causing wages to just barely eclipse inflation over the same period. In addition, since the Recession, Michigan families are paying higher insurance premiums and higher deductibles.

Currently the Health Insurance Claims Assessment Act (HICA) impacts over 5 million privately insured Michigan citizens. The tax has increased the cost of doing business in our state and increased healthcare costs for anyone who purchases private insurance.

The EAM believes Senate Bills 987, 988, 989 and 990 will:

- Lower health insurance costs
- Allow employers to create new jobs and higher wages
- Attract companies to build and manufacture in Michigan
- Increase Michigan's economic competitiveness
- Secure funding of Michigan's Medicaid program into the future

The EAM asks you to support Senate Bills 987, 988, 989 and 990. They are steps in a positive direction for job growth in our state, especially in the manufacturing and healthcare industries, which employ thousands of Michigan workers.

Sincerely,

Bret Jackson

President  
Economic Alliance for Michigan